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Legal Assistant Program

Salve Regina College

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Office of Public Information

SRC *Newsbulletin*

Salve Regina - The Newport College

Newport, Rhode Island 02840

(401) 847-6650 Ext. 223

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sister Esther Whalen
Mailed: March 17, 1978

LEGAL ASSISTANT PROGRAM

The Newport College, Salve Regina, today (Friday, March 17, 1978) announced the establishment of a legal assistant program this summer. The nine week course, beginning June 26, 1978, will be the first comprehensive certificate program ever offered for this type of legal training in Rhode Island.

According to Sister Lucille McKillop, president of the college, "The primary objective of the program is to develop occupational competence for students who are professionally assisting lawyers and others in handling legal matters."

Charles W. Cooke, Esq., Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at the College, and program coordinator, said that several judges and lawyers serve on the program's advisory board. They include the Honorable Edward P. Gallogly, Chief Judge of the Rhode Island Family Court; Justice Florence K. Murray of the Superior Court; Judge Francis J. Boyle of the U.S. District Court; and Judge Michael J. Donohue, Presiding Justice, District Court of Holyoke, Holyoke, Massachusetts.

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A Coeducational College of Arts and Sciences

The program will offer concentration in three major areas: real estate, estates and trusts, and litigation. It will emphasize comprehension of how the legal machinery works. Graduates of the program will be able to assist lawyers in research, pre-trial preparation and investigation.

Dr. Cooke, along with Dr. William Burrell, Vice President, dean of the Faculty, researched the need for and the acceptance of a legal assistant program in Rhode Island. In a random survey of lawyers, 75% of the respondents reacted favorably to the program and indicated an interest in legal assistants.

American Bar Association guidelines are being followed in curriculum design and admissions policies. A high school diploma is minimum requirement. The program is intended for a wide range of persons including high school graduates, persons with some college background as well as college graduates. Dr. Cooke said, "We are offering this opportunity to people who are interested in going back to school or starting a new career."

The faculty will be lawyers as well as faculty from the long and successfully established Criminal Justice program of Newport College, Salve Regina.

Other members of the advisory board besides the judges are the following lawyers: Stephen A. Fanning, Jr., Esq., of Edwards & Angell, Providence; Thomas Kelly, Esq., Newport; Joseph T. Houlihan, Esq., of Corcoran, Peckham & Hayes, Newport; Jacques V. Hopkins, Esq., of Hinckley,

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Allen, Salisbury & Parsons, Providence; and William Camara, Esq., Fall
River, MA.

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